

The Dangers of Fentanyl

The Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) strives to be a good community partner and in that vein we want to alert you to a drug that is showing up in all communities across the state. Fentanyl is a prescription pain medication that is potentially lethal, even at very low levels. In recent years, the U.S. has seen an alarming surge in the number of overdose deaths from fentanyl, most commonly when it is laced with other drugs such as heroin. This deadly trend has continued to spike. According to the Centers for Disease Control, deaths from fentanyl overdoses increased by 72.2% nationwide from 2014 to 2015.

What Do I Need to Know?

- Fentanyl can be absorbed into the body via oral exposure, ingestion, inhalation, or contact with the skin.
- The onset of symptoms of fentanyl exposure can occur within minutes.
- If you suspect an overdose, seek emergency medical services as soon as possible.
- Narcan is a drug that can reverse overdose symptoms and can be administered by injection or nasal spray.
- Need help? Substance abuse treatment programs are available.

Signs of an Overdose

- Confusion
- Dizziness
- Blue lips or fingers
- Limp body
- Unresponsive
- Seizures
- Nodding off
- Death

Introducing contraband into a prison, community supervision office or other correctional facility is a felony offense and the Tennessee Department of Correction will vigorously prosecute anyone caught attempting to do so.